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Lubicons Target Daishowa

Giant transnational faces a full-blown fight over plans to begin clearcutting this fall

By Kevin Thomas

March 7, 1988 is a day Daishowa Canada Officials would rather we forgot. That's the day the giant transnational made an agreement with the Lubicon Lake Cree Nation not to cut trees in unceded Lubicon territories until a land rights agreement had been reached with the federal and provincial governments. The Lubicons, concerned with the selling of vast portions of Alberta to transnational forestry companies through provincial government leases, met with Daishowa to wrangle just such an agreement out of them. Now Daishowa has reneged on the agreement with the preparations for a destroyed all that; it chased away the game they depended on, forcing 95% of the community onto welfare. Now, despite a long and determined struggle to resolve their land rights with both levels of government, the Lubicon people still have no official recognition of their Aboriginal territory and are faced with a new and potentially fatal threat: logging.

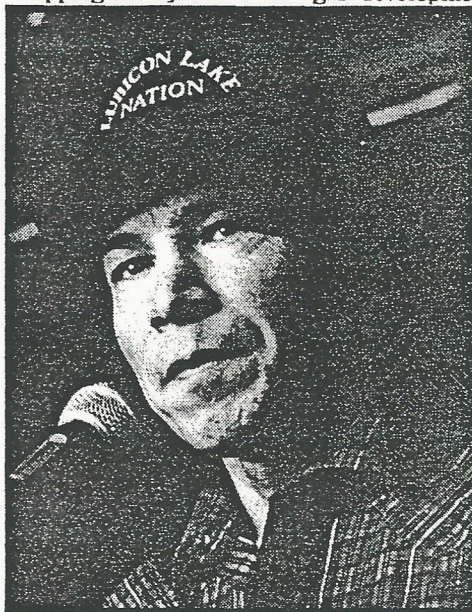
A large portion of Alberta is now under lease to transnational logging corporations. The Lubicon Nation's entire traditional territory is contained in these leases. Although Daishowa originally agreed not to log Lubicon territory, they have proceeded using wholly owned subsidiaries such as Buchanan Lumber and Brewster Construction who are just waiting for the ground to freeze to lay their hands on Lubicon forests.

Negotiations have not been fruitful. Not only is Daishowa alternately pretending they had no agreement or that the agreement is not applicable (in fact, their story changes from day to day), they are refusing further meetings with the Nation. While in Tokyo recently, Lubicon Chief Bernard Ominayak sought meetings with Daishowa's head officers. These attempts were rebuffed on the grounds that the logging of Lubicon lands by wholly-owned Daishowa subsidiaries was a matter between the Lubicons and government and somehow didn't involve Daishowa.

The gloves are coming off. Lubicon supporters have targeted Daishowa for an international boycott. While Daishowa is in a bad financial position due to over-expansion, they are particularly vulnerable to a drop in sales. Daishowa's paper products are primarily bought by other companies for use in their products rather than as something available direct to

massive clearcutting operation on Lubicon territory this fall.

The Lubicon Lake Nation has consistently mounted a spirited struggle for their Aboriginal land rights ever since the onset of oil and gas development on their territory in the early 80s. Although promised a reserve settlement from the feds as far back as 1939, the Lubicons had lived pretty much isolated from the rest of the world up until that point, pursuing a traditional hunting and trapping lifestyle. Oil and gas development



consumers. For instance, in Alberta, Lubicon supporters are protesting the decision of Edmonton Telephones to use Daishowa newsprint for their telephone books next year.

In Ontario, the Friends of the Lubicon are calling on the NDP government to cancel a contract from the Liquor Control Board of Ontario which sees the LCBO using Daishowa paper bags. This is particularly important in light of recent pledges by the Ontario government to honour Native self-government. Other companies who use Daishowa bags are Pizza Pizza, Cultures, and Ho-Lee Chow fast food outlets. While more are being uncovered and a more extensive international boycott campaign is being launched, our immediate focus is to get the LCBO's contract cancelled. It's our feeling that the cancellation of any one of Daishowa's contracts will be a show of strength for Lubicon supporters and might put a scare into Daishowa. People can help accomplish this by writing to Premier Bob

Rae at the address below. We would also encourage people to write to Tom Hamaoka, Vice President of Daishowa Canada, to express your outrage about the planned clearcutting of unceded Lubicon territories and the breaking of their agreement with the Lubicon Lake Nation.

This fall will be a crucial point for the Lubicon Lake Nation. If we succeed in stopping Daishowa, it will be a major victory for Aboriginal interests in the country. It will express the power of solidarity in opposing transnational corporations, something that is in the interests of all Canadians. If we fail, clearcutting will be carried out in Lubicon territory, leaving a wasteland. The Nation has sent out a request that people take action against Daishowa NOW, on their own behalf, rather than waiting to support any future Lubicon action. That call has to be enough to bring us together against this transnational or it may be their last words.

FROM BEE DAUDJIMOWIN
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Striking the Public Sector

by: Community Charge

Posties on Strike

Rotating strikes for 25,000 members from the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) began on August 23rd. The union which has been without a contract since July of 1989, wants an expansion of door-to-door services to 200,000 homes. The homes are currently being serviced by new "super-boxes", which are being introduced in new communities. The super-boxes eliminate home delivery by providing a central pickup facility, effectively eliminating letter carrier's jobs. Canada Post wants to expand this type of (non)service across the country.

The union also wants a conversion of part-time jobs into full-time positions. Part-time and casual labour are a constant threat to unionization, because they eliminate unionized jobs and tend to remove solidarity in the work place by providing only casual labourers.

The union also wants back payments for the 2 years they have worked without a contract. Canada Post refuses to give any percentage increases to their wages for the lost time, which effectively brings the value of their real wages down considerably. The company which is a crown corporation owned by the federal government, wants the freedom to hire more part-time employees and to de-centralize sorting centers to contract out work to private companies. 9,000 jobs are directly threatened by such plans.

In 1986 Donald Lander was brought in as Canada Post new CEO, with a new 10 year plan to fully automate the company and make substantial reductions in staff.

The current round of strikes has brought renewed threats from the federal government to

remove Canada Post's monopoly on 1st class mail and allow mail rates to be competitive, a possible move towards eventual privatization of the company. The effect would be a substantial rise in rate prices across Canada, with phenomenal rises in costs to places like rural communities or the North which see less mail traffic.

The jobs at the post office has in recent years been threatened by the advent of facsimiles, private couriers and computerized bank transfers; which threaten postal jobs and undermines the effectiveness of strikes by providing alternatives in that sector. Private couriers are currently a \$1.4 Billion business in Canada.

Postal strikes in Canada have historically been the scene of violence. This has usually been due to Canada Post's insistence on using scab labour to maintain full operational capacity during a strike. In 1987 the federal government legislated the postal workers back to work, citing numerous incidence of violence on the picket line.

In the recent round of strikes, an Ontario court issued a ban on picketing at Toronto area sorting centers on Aug. 30, blaming union leaders for inciting violence. A similar ruling occurred in Montreal.

What the courts fail to observe is that incidents of violence occurred when scab labour was forced through the picket line by newly hired Canada Post security guards and the ever helpful Police, who both have a tendency to punch strikers in the face as in the case in Vancouver or to butt them in the head with their night sticks as occurred in Edmonton. In the Hamilton area, Canada Post tried to hire a local biker gang, the Vagabonds, to be the security

force. Canada Post also hires people to videotape the workers on the picket line and make records of the more militant ones.

Negotiations between the two sides are still going on. Keeping in mind, Canada Post's record of ten strikes in the past twenty five years, the conflict can be expected to continue.

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Shutting Down the City

Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Workers represents 8,600 employees of the Toronto Transit System (TTC) which includes: ticket collectors, maintenance crews and the drivers and operators of the city's streetcar, buses, trolleys and subway system. The union has been without a contract since June of this year.

The union wants provisions to limit the TTC from hiring more part-time workers and to stop the company from contracting out maintenance work to small private firms. The company defends its part-time policy as essential to meet the transit's peak hours. However this supposed need for part-time work has come after 186 full-time employees were laid off in the spring. More workers have received letters of threats for future layoffs.

With the threat of a strike looming the company made offers to hire retired TTC employees to do the part-time work. But this does little to ensure job security and essentially uses ex-co-workers in union busting techniques. A tactic the workers no doubtly believe TTC's new management would do. Workers are convinced they were brought in to bust the union.

On Sept. 7 the union executive accepted a tentative

agreement which still provided the company the power to hire part-time workers and contract out some of its maintenance jobs. The rank & file angered by the executives decision voted down the proposal choosing to go out on strike for their demands. Many called for the resignation of the union executive.

On Sept. 11 the 8,600 transit workers went out on an 8 day strike which effectively shutdown the entire Toronto transit system, used by 1.4 Million daily in Canada's largest metropolis and the nation's financial capital.

The TTC is a publicly owned corporation, administered under the Ontario provincial government. On Sept. 19 the NDP (New Democratic Party) Ontario's 'socialist' government, forced TTC workers to vote on a new contract or face back-to-work legislation. The new contract, which included some limits on the use of part-timers, was narrowly passed by vote and transit workers returned to the job the next day. Most mad as hell with a union that betrayed them and a 'socialist' government that forced them back to work.

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0% Gets Zero Work

On Sept. 9, 110,000 Civil servants began Canada's 1st ever General Strike in the civil service. The strikers, members of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) are federal government employees, the majority being: clerical staff, secretaries and taxation workers. PSAC's total membership includes 165,000 federal employees, with 45,000 employees designated to what the government deems essential services, and thus are not allowed to legally strike. These PSAC members include customs officers, immigration officers, air traffic controllers, etc. The majority of PSAC members are women who are predominately ghettoized into clerical and secretarial

positions.

The majority of those earning between \$19,000 and \$26,000 a year. The government which bargains with federal workers, through the Treasury Board wants to place a cap on wages of 0% wage increases this year and 3% increases for the following 2 years. MP's gave themselves an 8% bonus in January, as well as a 12% bonus for those on the Treasury Board. The civil servants want wage increases that are at least compatible to inflationary increases, as well workers want guarantees for greater job security from federal government plans to hire more part-time workers and contracting out public services.

The government has taken a hard-line on its wage freezes, and has ignored reports by a conciliation board which states that PSAC members are entitled to more then the government imposed wage controls. Consecutive conciliation boards who have worked with both sides since their contract ran out in March of this year, have complained about the government's inflexibility on monetary issues. But the government has been persistent despite a labour board ruling that stated that the government is bargaining in bad faith.

The inflexibility on the governments part has angered the 165,000 civil servants. PSAC historically has not been a militant union. The government was hedging their bets that the union would not have the support of its membership to go out on strike. In March a poll showed 65% of PSAC members willing to go out on strike. When the strike date came in early September, 85% voted in favor of the strike; undermining the governments patriarchal view that PSAC's majority membership of women in clerical and secretarial positions, would not go out on strike. Perhaps what the government overlooked was that most went on strike out of necessity.

Read one sign, "0, 3 & 3 won't feed my children, I can't breast feed forever !"

As the strike continued militancy grew. Essential service workers like air traffic controllers at Pearson International airport, custom agents in Windsor and Buffalo, and grain inspectors in Manitoba and Saskatchewan refused to cross picket lines. As well, those who choose to remain working, many out of necessity, began instead to join their co-workers on the picket line.

On Sept. 17 PSAC agreed to call off the strike as a condition for appointing a new mediator. But the deal was ended by a rank & file walkout on Sept. 27., after leaked memos of the federal governments plans to give secret bonuses to senior civil servants and the managers of crown corporations. A mass rally sparked in the capital as civil servants converged on parliament and stormed the Parliament building the same day. Prime Minister Brian Mulroney had to flee out the back door to a waiting limousine.

On Oct. 4 the government brought in back-to work legislation which was rushed through the House and Senate, despite the opposition promises to stall the bill. With no surprises to anyone, Liberal senators agreed to suspend normal senate proceedings to rush the legislation through.

The legislation brought in made no provisions for further negotiations on the wage freezes. Workers could either return to work or face fines up to \$1,000/day per person, \$5,000/day for each union leader still on strike and \$100,000/day to the union itself. It was obvious that civil servants had no choice but to return back to work, but as many promised 0% increases will get zero work.

A striking difference

BY CARLA LIPSIG-MUMMÉ

AS the current postal dispute makes painfully clear, Canada's public-sector unions are facing a dilemma. Like unions in the private sector, they're on the defensive. The past decade has been a bad one for organized labour in North America. Unions find themselves trapped between recession and a declining industrial base, between cash-strapped governments and a new managerial militancy, and between the hardline labour policy of right-wing governments, conservative public opinion and the paucity of effective social-democratic solutions to the new economic order.

However, the two types of unions face strategic problems that are quite different. Above all, Canada's manufacturing unions, such as steel and autos, fear the loss of jobs from plant closures, relocation, bankruptcy and corporate rationalization. In general, the traditional smokestack unions are on the wane, and to re-establish themselves, they'll have to adapt to the new forms of industrial employment. These are the growing number of sweatshops located in garages and basements, the invisible labour force that works at home, and the mom-and-pop industrial concerns.

Government employees face different problems, but they are just as real. They're less worried that their employers will close up shop, but they have been forced to live with cutbacks in the services they can offer, a loss in real income, privatization — which effectively means termination of employment — and, above all, the replacement of secure employment by precarious jobs.

In the postal dispute, for example, the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) has presented a plan to transform some of these "bad jobs" back into good ones, through training and by turning part-time and precarious jobs into full-time and secure ones. Job security is also the main concern of the Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC), whose members, too, are making strike noises.

In defending and bettering their members' working conditions, which any union worth its salt must do, CUPW and PSAC, along with such other public-sector workers as nurses, hospital staff, teachers and

air-traffic controllers, face two obstacles that are unique to their situation.

First, their employer wears two hats: he is the boss, with whom they sit down at the bargaining table and against whom, if necessary, they strike. And he is the state, the legislator that can order them back to work, fine members and jail their leaders if the union gets too uppity. Or effective.

The second obstacle is the presence of that amorphous, powerful, invisible third party at the bargaining table: the public.

Unions feel trapped between the public, which seems sometimes to regard public services as an unconditional right provided by ungrateful public servants, and their employer, the state. Not only can the state outlaw otherwise legal strikes, it can inflame public opinion against a union by, for example, refusing to let postal workers distribute benefits and welfare cheques to the needy and the vulnerable.

This leaves a public-sector union with a difficult choice: whether to carry through with an unpopular (or "de-legalized") strike or simply to accept that the state holds most of the cards. Strikes may be costly in human and material terms, but giving up makes it impossible for a union to carry out its basic function — defending the interests of its members.

GIVEN this conundrum, public-sector unions in France, Australia, the United States and several Canadian provinces have abandoned their usual tactics in favour of a longer-term strategy with two main objectives.

First, they want to foster solidarity between those who provide public services (the workers) and those who consume them (the public). Reconstituting this partnership, which has been destroyed by clever government manipulation and by poor union tactics in the past, contributes to the second goal: to reinvigorate union militancy.

Based less on a fixed strategy than an approach that can be adapted to different countries and contexts, this tactic is often labelled a "positive" strike. Rather than a replacement for union militancy, it amounts to a refinement of it.

Because the state can resort to the double whammy of its legislative power and ability to manipulate public opinion, unions have to be creative enough to find some way of putting pressure on their employers while sparing the public.

They already have many examples of the "positive strike" to inspire them. In the summer of 1989, trolley, subway and bus drivers in Melbourne, Australia, were at odds with the State of Victoria government over changes to the accident-compensation system. Unwilling to close the public-transit system and keep people from getting to work, they stayed on the job and simply failed to collect any fares.

In an earlier example, Victoria's striking electricity workers had negotiated how much power was needed to maintain essential services. Then their employer, the state electricity commission, informed them that this "essential" level of electricity would be used to keep business and hospitals open but not to feed the electrified public-transport system. Workers responded by volunteering to provide the extra electricity so commuters could get to work. Opinion polls conducted during and after the strike showed that residents had come to believe that the unions were more concerned with the public interest than was the electricity commission.

French teachers have also re-interpreted the meaning of the word strike. Rather than striking in the traditional way — by closing schools and infuriating parents by making them arrange baby-sitting — they sent parents bulletins outlining the issues and set up community-information programs. They refused to fulfil their administrative duties, but the schools stayed open and the teachers controlled the conflict, gaining much public sympathy in the process.

By adopting this kind of strategic perspective, Canada's public-sector unions could forge a more enduring partnership with the public that would yield two things: better government services for citizens at large and better government treatment of its own employees.

Carla Lipsig-Mummé teaches labour studies at York University.

Public servants fight to preserve what they have

Work-force reductions, job security most contentious issues of three major strikes

BY VIRGINIA GALT
Labour Reporter

Bombarded with daily news of devastating job losses in the private sector, public employees are making a desperate last stand to preserve full-time jobs in the government sector.

As a result, the last bastions of job security — the federal government, Canada Post and the Toronto Transit Commission — have been rocked by three major strikes in as many weeks, with public servants fighting hammer and tong to hold on to what they have.

A common element in the disputes is a determined attempt by the employers to get costs under control by using part-time, casual and contract employees to meet peak demand requirements, rather than swelling the full-time employment rolls.

Work-force reduction is a wrenching adjustment that private-sector

employers have already made, and that private-sector unions have responded to through innovative contract provisions, says industrial relations specialist Noah Meltz, principal of the University of Toronto's Woodsworth College.

"This is the issue for the 1990s — how to balance the employees' needs for equity and fairness with the employers' needs for efficiency and cost-effectiveness," Mr. Meltz said. Until that balance is found in the public sector, "there will be more confrontation."

The private-sector unions, concerned about the steady growth of part-time jobs at the expense of full-time jobs, have offered full moral and financial support to the striking public employees. Part-time employees now account for about 15 per cent of the total work force, compared with about 10 per cent in the mid-1970s, Statistics Canada reports.

And, of the 1,783,000 Canadians who worked part time in July, 754,000 reported that they were only working part time because they could not find full-time work.

Jim MacEwan, a vice-president of the striking Public Service Alliance of Canada, says the threat to job security is "the scourge of the public sector." PSAC president Daryl Bean has described job security as "the No. 1 issue, with wages a close second."

The federal government has initiated a wage freeze this year, followed by ceilings of 3 per cent for increases in each of the next two years — with the caveat that any increase could trigger layoffs. The government has also demanded total freedom to hire contractors to do work previously done by public employees.

Employees of the TTC went on strike yesterday because, they said,

they feared a proposal to use retired employees as summer relief workers would eventually lead to the use of more part-time and casual workers at the expense of full-time jobs.

And the Canadian Union of Postal Workers, now off the picket lines while a mediator tries to find a settlement, has proposed that part-time, casual and overtime work in the post office be converted into full-time jobs. "Any financial gains that Canada Post might get by turning full-time jobs into part-time jobs cannot compensate for the difficulties it creates for the workers," CUPW said.

Canada Post responds sharply that it has offered full job security for all current employees — a claim the union disputes. Harold Dunstan, Canada Post's outspoken vice-president of labour relations, said recently: "They are demanding that the part-time and casual positions we now use to meet peak volume de-

mands be turned into full-time jobs. In other words, they want us to pay for full-time work even if the peak volumes are there part time."

CUPW president Jean-Claude Parrot said in an interview yesterday that the preservation of full-time jobs would guarantee decent job opportunities now and in the future.

Andrew Jackson, a senior economist with the Canadian Labour Congress, said that, in addition to a major jump in part-time work, an increasing number of full-time jobs have shifted from "full-time, full-year secure jobs" to "temporary, insecure jobs" with private contractors.

"To the extent that they [the public service unions] are successful, what they are doing is slowing down or reversing a trend that is leading to a degradation and deterioration of the labour force," Mr. Jackson said.

"It is a very important struggle."

from the Globe and Mail, Sept. 13 1991

Nova Scotia Government Requests New SYSCO Business Plan

On October 11, Nova Scotia Finance Minister Greg Kerr announced that the cabinet has demanded a new business plan from Sydney Steel Corporation (SYSCO). If the new business plan shows SYSCO cannot make money, then the province will shut it down. According to the finance minister, the government-owned mill is losing \$1-million a week.

A public meeting in Sydney,

attended by more than 300 people, discussed the federal and provincial governments' policies towards SYSCO and its employees, including the latest provincial government announcement. One laid-off steelworker stated that more than 600 former SYSCO employees "have been cast on the scrap heap like so much rubbish." Blaming poor orders, SYSCO laid off another 80 steelworkers last week, leaving 370

remaining on the job.

Not only the steelworkers, but other people in Cape Breton are angered by the announcement. The warden of Cape Breton County, Joe Pat MacKinnon, accused the government of abandoning the area and he told the steelworkers at the meeting that "This is not just your fight; this is the fight of everybody in this community."

NHW

from the New Hamilton Weekly, Oct. 21 1991

Racial Violence Sweep Across Montreal & Nova Scotia

by: Community Charge

More News From Montreal

On top of the racist incidents mentioned in the Ecomedia article, there have been other incidents in Montreal. Youth numbering about 100, clashed with police after a Friday night dance. Police arrived after the youth ran into problems sneaking a bus pass back to each other to avoid paying the bus fare. The youth were told by police "to go back to where they came from" (see Globe and Mail article on Racial Slurs). By the end of the clash 9 cops, 3 cop cars and 21 other cars were damaged by rocks and bottles. Police unfortunately made 13 arrests after 2 hours.

On Monday July 22, police violently dispersed a peaceful crowd outside a dance club after it closed. Employees of the club said that despite the fact that the club is packed 6 nights a week the cops only hang around on Thursdays when the majority of patrons are gay and on Monday when they are mostly blacks. Police were filmed tripping and pushing a black employee around. Police also arrested a black man for sitting on a bench but left a white man who was also there alone. Police attacked blacks while telling whites to please go home. Employees confirmed that the crowd was peaceful and that the police started the fight that ended in 13 arrests, several for resisting arrest.

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Tensions Rise in Nova Scotia

This summer people of colour resisted racist attacks by the police by refusing to go along

with the cops violence. Many fights, minor riots and demonstrations have taken place. Most of these have occurred in Montreal, Quebec and the province of Nova Scotia. The brutality that many people of colour, especially youth, face is on a constant rise, particularly from police.

The response of city officials has been to more or less condone and therefore encourage the police to continue with their racist violence with impunity.

-----Halifax-----

The racial situation in Nova Scotia has always been tense, but this summer the tension came to the surface. On July 18, a group of black people were refused entry to a bar in Halifax for the second night in a row. After a heated exchange with the doormen a group walked down the street throwing garbage bins and mailboxes into the street. That sparked a minor riot. Close to 50 youth mainly black smashed windows, disrupted traffic and littered the streets with anything that could be lifted. Police in riot gear showed up and attacked the crowd, but most got away. The cops taunting participants with racist slogans. The riot lasted about 30 minutes and resulted in 8 arrests.

The next day Halifax's mayor denied that the riot was sparked by racism and claimed that there isn't racism in the city. The same day a community meeting was held where people angrily denounced the police for their use of violence and racist taunts. They also said that if the black unemployment rate, which is 22% and 3 times higher than the white one, wasn't evidence of racism then they didn't know what was.

The night after the riot a gang of 15 or more whites attacked a group of 4 blacks in a Halifax neighborhood. One of the black youths had his throat slit. All of the whites fled and it is not known if any arrests have been made yet. The black youths believe that the attack was in retaliation for the previous night's riot. Police tried to claim that the stabbing was not racially motivated. A sergeant on the scene said. "Apparently this group has had problems in the past. It wasn't black on whites or whites on blacks. It was a nice racially balanced action." Apparently to Halifax cops stick carry whites on 4 blacks and a stabbing is a nice action.

One of the 4 youths was charged with property damage after he grabbed the equipment of a CBC camera man to prevent him from filming the stabbed youth. It is quite ironic that a city-without-racism's police force let 15 white youth run away from a stabbing without giving much chase, but will arrest a black youth for protecting his friends. Black youths in Halifax have promised to retaliate if they continue to be subjected to violence like this.

-----Sydney, N.S.-----

The week after the stabbing a fight broke out in Sydney, N. Scotia. Around 700 people gathered near the local YMCA and the fight started when a woman called a man a "nigger". The man then swung at the woman, who ducked and hit a woman standing behind her. Some people in the crowd started to yell racist words at the blacks in the crowd. Eventually the fight spilled into a local store and damaged some merchandise.

Youths involved said that the fight was due to a long standing feud, whites have with a nearby black neighborhood. Once again police and community leaders tried to deny that it was a racially motivated fight. Instead they called it a "tiff" between boys in the neighborhood. 15 people were arrested on various drinking and public nuisance charges. Only one person was sent to the hospital after he was hit on the head.

Black Youth Attacked

The same night as the Sydney fight, a black man was arrested on charges of aggravated assault after he hit an attacking white man over the head with a baseball bat. According to witnesses at the store where it happened, a white man had called a black a "nigger". The youth ignored the taunt. Then the white person went to a phone and called up 2 friends who came with baseball bats and chased the black man. Fortunately the man overpowered one of his attackers and clubbed him with the baseball bat. A witness told police that he was obvious attacked and that the black man was only defending himself. Police laid no charges at the time against the 2 attacking whites. Police then refused to comment on whether it was a racially motivated attack. Knowing the intelligence of cops it could take years for them to come to a decision.

Conclusion

Throughout all of these attacks the provincial government and local cops have denied that racism and the recent violence have any relation to each other. For blacks in Nova Scotia the connection is obvious. The police condone white attacks on blacks and therefore encourage them to continue the attacks. Meetings have been held to condemn the lack

of city action around the issue of racism. The meetings also condemned the police for being racist. Over 1,000 people marched in Halifax against the racist violence.

Youth in Nova Scotia seem to have had it with the police, white racists and discrimination in general. By rising up they are drawing attention to their fight.

Montréal Debout Defendants Acquitted

MONTREAL—A jury has acquitted two anti-fascist activists from the Montreal Debout Coalition of assault and robbery charges laid by Michel Larocque, leader of the KKK—Longitude 74.

The charges stemmed from a September 30, 1990 incident at a Montreal Debout Coalition demonstration to protest racist manifestations and attacks in the city. The demonstration of several hundred anti-racists was confronted with a counter-demonstration of 30-50 masked Aryan Resistance Movement skinheads shouting death threats. Montreal KKK leader Michel Larocque penetrated the anti-racist ranks to take photographs of demonstrators for his organizations' files. After being identified he was confronted by security who, when he refused to desist his surveillance activities, forcibly confiscated his film. Larocque, with police cooperation, laid criminal charges of robbery and assault against the head of security for the demonstration, a Montreal Debout Coalition leader and a leader of the Canadian Centre on Racism and Prejudice (CCRP). These activists were arrested on the spot and jailed for several hours.

The defense attempted to run a political trial, recognizing the charges as a political strategy by the KKK to tie up anti-fascist energy and resources in a potentially serious court case. Introduction of political evidence—such as portions of the Kloran (KKK document) which compels its mem-

bers to lie under oath and to infiltrate and destabilize anti-racist organizations, Larocque's history of assault charges and an article about the trial written by Larocque urging readers to "Smash these puppets of Z.O.G." (meaning the trialists)—was refused by the judge. Says defendant Martin Theriault of CCRP "The Canadian justice system does not want to address issues of white supremacy."

While the Montreal Debout trialists have won a legal victory, the collusion of the courts with the KKK through their silencing of political evidence exposes the real sympathies of the Canadian legal system.

The Canadian Centre on Racism and Prejudice in Montreal is a clearinghouse for information about neo-Nazi activity, and more importantly, what can be done and what people are doing to get these elements out of our communities and to break their momentum in this country. They publish an excellent anti-fascist paper, *CCRP Bulletin*, available for \$25/year from CCRP, P.O. Box 505, Station Desjardins, Montreal QUEBEC H5B 1B6.

This is the first issue of Community Charge in it's new format. Hopefully you find it of some use. If you have any comments please send them. As of yet we have set no price but we do ask you to exchange papers or send a donation. We are looking for people in Canada to write articles about situations in their area, especially in the Prairies and the East coast.

We can be contacted at;
P.O.B. 57069 Jackson Stn.
Hamilton, Ont, Canada
L8P 4W9
Thank you

from Ecomedia #105 Oct. 10

Police brutality charged

By LINCOLN DEPRADINE

Claiming that they were beaten by police in separate incidents in the City of York and in Scarborough, two Black men are taking their grievances to the Office of the Public Complaints Commission.

The men, Neil Condison and Paul Meredith, are both facing court charges.

When he visited SHARE's offices, Jamaican-born Meredith was still wearing the marks which he said were inflicted by two police officers.

His injuries included a badly swollen left eye.

Meredith, the single parent of a young daughter, lives in an apartment building at Lawrence Avenue East in Scarborough.

He said that he was about to take the stairs to his fifth floor apartment at around 5:30 Sunday morning, when the officers — he said that one was White and the other East Indian — rushed in and grabbed him.

"They threw me to the ground, punched me in the face and dragged me around," Meredith told SHARE.

He said that although he told the police that he had identification to prove that he lived in the building, they did not believe him and accused him of being a drug dealer.

"A penknife I was taking from my car to my apartment fell out of my pocket," Meredith said.

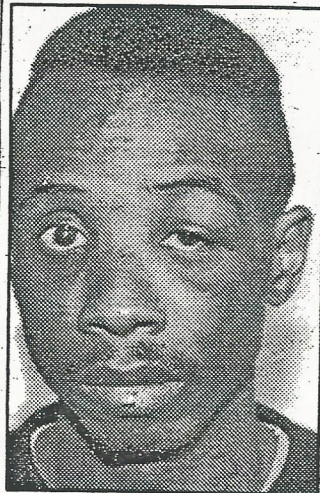
This led the police to charge him with having a dangerous weapon.

Meredith said that he was taken to 42 Division. A check there showed that he did not have a criminal record, and he was released after the laying of the weapon charge.

He told SHARE that he has lodged a complaint with 42 Division, and will also report the matter to the Office of the Public Complaints Commission.

"I do not want to be coming home and have the police do the same thing to me again," he said. "I've heard the officers say that all Black guys around there are drug dealers."

Meredith says he intends to have a lawyer represent him when he answers the weapon



PAUL MERIDITH

charge in court at month-end.

Neil Condison said that he was choked, elbowed and punched in the head, and kned in the groin in an incident involving two officers — one described as White and the other as Oriental.

The incident took place at Eglinton Avenue and Oakwood Avenue last Thursday afternoon, and several persons have corroborated Condison's story.

They include one woman who, in tears and badly shaken, came into the offices of SHARE.

She said that she never believed that Canadian police behaved in such a manner, adding that Condison did not attempt to retaliate, even though he was being beaten.

Condison said that the incident occurred after he parked on Eglinton Avenue, and crossed the street to buy food. While waiting inside a restaurant for the food he had ordered, he looked out and noticed that the police were ticketing cars.

"I went out to see if I had already gotten a ticket — and I had," Condison said. "I looked at it and took it off the windshield and put it in my car. "Since I hadn't gotten my food as yet, I went back across the street to get it, and then returned to my car."

Condison said that on getting into his car, one of the police officers approached him and asked to see his licence.

The officer was given the

licence, went to his police car, and then came back to Condison.

"He asked me to come with him to his car and told me that there is some outstanding fine on the licence," Condison said. "I explained to him that about three years ago my I.D. was stolen and it (the outstanding fine) could be coming from that."

Condison said that he complied and went with the officer and sat with him in the back seat of the police car.

"As I sat there in the back seat," Condison said, "I thought he was going to close the door and do further investigations, but he stayed in the back seat. He had his elbow up and then he gave me an elbow at the side of the head. Thereupon, I just got out of the car."

It was then, Condison says, that his real troubles began, as the policeman and his partner got out the car, grabbed Condison and tried to force him back into the cruiser.

Condison ended up on the ground. He said that several officers came and told him to get up.

"Next thing I know was that one of the officers had grabbed me by my necktie and was trying to pull me up, and I was being choked," he said.

The police succeeded in pulling up Condison and held him against a car.

Condison reported that "one Oriental officer kned me in the groin. I tried to turn, in case he was going to do it again. I remember turning, and he came up against me and threw a punch at the side of my head."

Condison, who has previously had three operations for an injured knee, accused a White officer of taking a club and jamming it into his knees.

Witnesses say Condison was beaten almost unconscious, before being "stuffed" into a police car and taken to 13 Division.

At the police station, Condison was charged with two counts of assault and released.

He was taken to Northwestern

General Hospital by a friend.

A hospital spokesperson told SHARE that Condison "was there in emergency" last Thursday.

Condison said that a complaint for the Public Complaints Commission was filed at 52 Division.

He says he will also retain a lawyer.

"I have been collecting names and numbers of witnesses," Condison said. "I have a few, and more are coming forward."

Anyone who saw the incident and wishes to be a witness for Condison is asked to call him at 299-8821.

from Share Oct. 17

Demolished Africville threatened again

Blacks fear memory of N.S. community will be desecrated

ELAINE FLAHERTY
SOUTHAM NEWS



HALIFAX — As blacks from Nova Scotia and across Canada gather here this weekend, they will both celebrate and mourn what was once an impoverished but independent community known as Africville.

But this year, there is certain to be an uneasy mix of emotions at the annual reunion of the community demolished 25 years ago.

The reunion takes place only a week after a riot that once again highlights this province's racial woes.

While charges of racial discrimination at city bars sparked the violence, black leaders, municipal and police officials are all trying to grapple with the bigger underlying causes.

Racial discrimination

Social and economic disparity between the black and white communities, combined with recurring incidents of racial discrimination here are the real reasons behind the violence, black leaders say.

Added to that larger pattern is the bitter history of Africville and the worry that now even its memory is about to be desecrated.

Some black leaders here say the forces of economic development behind the destruction of Africville are once again at work, this time threatening to encroach on the park that commemorates the site.

"This year, I think it's going to be a sombre mood," predicted Rev. Ogueri Ohanaka, a spokesman for the Black United Front and the minister who last year gave the closing sermon at the reunion.

What's worrying former residents and some other members of the black community are two related development proposals affecting the nearby port.

CN plans to build a terminal that will allow cargo containers to be quickly on or off-loaded to rail, truck and ship. And, in a plan originally approved by city council seven years ago and reaffirmed this year, the Halifax Port Corp. proposes a new access road that would run along the edge of Seaview Park, the former site of Africville.

Important for development

Neither plan would actually infringe on the park itself. Claude Ball, the port corporation's chief operating officer, says the road is important for development and would actually allow better access to the park.

"It's a really straightforward project that would enhance everything it comes in contact with," he said. "We're not in the business of hurting anybody."

But opponents say the development projects overlook the historic and emotional significance of the site. And they worry that these are just the first demands on what is a valuable piece of real estate, located on the shoreline's curve where the harbor opens into the Bedford Basin.

"We want to make sure that nothing is done to this little area you've given us that used to be Africville," Ohanaka said. "It's not just another piece of land. It holds a lot of memories."



Children at their home in the impoverished but independent black community of Africville in Halifax during the 1940s.

The homes and the church that were the heart of Africville are long gone. But the area's evocative name continues to carry a highly charged significance here.

Razed in the late-'60s for development and in a misguided attempt at integrating the city's black population and improving living conditions, Africville is today romantically remembered.

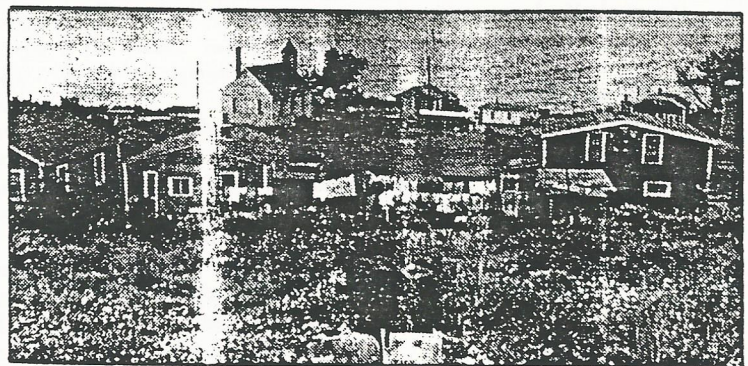
It was founded in the 1840s by the sons and daughters of black refugees from the War of 1812 and many of the leaders of the black community today are descendants of these first families.

Undoubtedly poverty-stricken, but perhaps not the slum it was portrayed to be, Africville in the 1960s had no sewage system and no running water. Trains ran through the community and the city added to the area's woes by putting a dump on its outskirts.

Despite that, many former residents and their children today see themselves as exiles forced out of a beloved home.

Its destruction is labelled an act of racism that, as Donald Clairmont and Dennis Magill point out in their book *Life and Death of a Canadian Black Community*, has taken on great symbolism.

"Subsequent to the relocation, Africville became a kind of red alert, signalling danger to the black community and traditions in the guise of city development projects, area upgrading and gentrification."



PHOTOS, PUBLIC ARCHIVES OF NOVA SCOTIA

Romantically remembered: Africville in the 1960s before it was demolished.

Charles Saunders, a freelance journalist who writes columns for the Halifax Daily News and who closely follows issues involving Africville, says the Seaview developments are worrisome to the black community because they echo what happened in the '60s.

"It seems as though their needs, their aspirations, their considerations aren't taken into account."

But today, the black community is more organized, has more allies and wields more political clout than it did in the mid-'60s.

Stung by the outcry about the port corporation's access road, the province announced a study to consider alter-

native routes. The report is expected in a few weeks.

And in September, opponents to the developments will take their case to a public meeting, announced by the city in response to the controversy.

There was no such outcry when the city decided to tear down Africville. Then, the biggest question was compensation and Africville residents were promised better housing and job retraining after the move.

"The black community just sat back and watched the destruction take place," Ohanaka said. "Events have proven that it wasn't a better life at all."

Again?!

Yet again, a Black man has fallen to the bullets of a white cop in Montréal. Meanwhile, stones directed at immigrant families flew from the hands of fascist youth. And very little is being done about it.

On July 3, a Montréal Urban Community officer shot unarmed 24 year old Marcelus Francois in the head. He died after laying unconscious in hospital for two weeks. The cop later said he mistook Francois for a murder suspect. We are left to assume he considers Black suspects as acceptable target practice.

A woman's arm was fractured on July 20 while being handcuffed, allegedly in an arrest for disorderly conduct. She was never charged, just left broken and bruised by the cops in hospital.

Temper in the community are rising along with the numbers of Black victims of police brutality. Several areas with a high Black populations were described as having "a riot waiting to happen on every corner." A group of youths trashed a cop car and the police typically overreacted, arresting 12 people. At least one of the accused was not even at the scene, his crime was to pedal by a half hour later.

Ecomedia Toronto

Ecomedia is an international "wire service" that acts as an alternative to regular news services. We focus on news and often censored information on autonomous and anarchist resistance and analysis of current events.

Ecomedia Toronto is a local office involved in three main projects: a radio show every Wednesday on CKLN 88.1 FM between 7 and 8 pm on the "Word of Mouth" program; also another radio spot at 12:15am on CIUT 89.5 FM; and the bulletin in your hands. Published bi-weekly and free at locations around the city; subscriptions are \$18/yr (26 issues) mailed monthly to cut costs. Order from the address on the front with cheques or M.O.'s payable to Ecomedia.

AKAX, an organization of Black students, is plotting an angry protest of the MUC's tyranny of terror this Friday, July 26 at the gates of McGill University. They're inviting all sympathizers to head over and join them.

The Black community has formally responded by uniting in a coalition of about 40 community groups. With the recent memories of the murders of Leslie Presley (1990) and Anthony Griffin (1985), they say police shootings are simply part of the systemic violence against the Black, native and immigrant communities in Montréal (and the rest of Canada).

The same week of Francois' shooting, several Somali families in Montréal's east end were stoned by groups of ultra right whites in their neighbourhood.

Although they later reacted instantly to damage of their empty car, it took days of these assaults to stir the police to take any action whatsoever. When they did act, the cops removed the families from their own apartments. They chose to put the victims through more disruption and hassle rather than

stop the abuse. They ignored the white racists and did not put any effort into tracking the culprits, and thereby silently condoning their behavior. In fact, the only charges laid were against a few Black youths.

Racist violence appears to be increasing in Canada, as is violence against all marginalized groups: natives, women, disabled people, immigrants and gays and lesbians. The frightening statistics may be due to both a social backlash against these groups, led by the mainstream media, as well as the rise in strength and determination of right wing and neo-nazi groups. FROM ECOMEDIA ISSUE #103

Rochester cops indicted on charges of brutality and torture

by BRIAN ERWAY

ROCHESTER, N.Y.—A federal court here has recently issued a 19-count civil rights abuse indictment charging six suspended and former police officers with acts of brutality and torture, and conspiring in a cover-up.

Among the charges are over 70 incidents that involved 55 victims, as well as plain old embezzlement and fraud.

Most of the police were members of a federally funded anti-drug outfit called the "Highway Interdiction Team" or HIT squad, assigned to make commando-style drug busts of street-level dealers.

According to the indictment, these cops beat, kicked, and racially abused suspects who were handcuffed and not resisting arrest; threatened suspects with live electrical wires and with guns against their heads; threw a handcuffed man down a stairway; planted cocaine on several people; stole money from several others.

On other occasions, police slammed a man's face into a car roof, causing his teeth to fall out; printed "illegal alien" in ink on a juvenile's forehead; forced a man to "bob for dope" in a toilet; and pushed a man into a wall, applied pliers to his teeth, and smashed grapes in his face.

One cop even ran over a fellow police officer with his car, mistaking him for a fleeing suspect.

Overseeing and approving of all this was the then-chief of police Gordon Urlacher, who last October was himself removed for embezzling several hundred thousand dollars.

"THUMP AND DUMP"

Urlacher, also charged in the indictment, encouraged the get-tough, "thump and dump" approach to drug arrests, and turned back internal investigations of brutality charges against the HIT squad.

The squad's captain, James O'Brien, demanded to "see sparks and fire" in the drug busts. "That's the way we do it in the vice squad," one cop told a reporter, as his partner shoved a suspect into a wall and choked him.

The local press and government are now falling over themselves to insist that the fault lies in the misconduct of just a few "rogue cops [who] betrayed the law and the public," and not in the nature of the justice system itself.

But when asked why, in two-and-a-half years of HIT squad abuse, no officers came forward to report the use of excessive force, current police chief Roy Irving explained that "a blind eye was being turned to those guys by

other people in the department—you know, just a wink and a nod."

"CODE OF SILENCE"

The few complaints that were investigated internally ran "into a code of silence" from other cops. And, as the indictments make clear, the cover-ups extended into the highest levels of the department.

Of course, none of this is unique to Rochester. Scandals involving police brutality are emerging in dozens of cities.

The FBI and Justice Department investigated about 3,000 police brutality cases each year. Of these, less than 2 percent go to a grand jury, and fewer still result in indictments.

But since the graphic publicity surrounding the March 3 police beating of Rodney King in Los Angeles, complaints against brutality have increased dramatically.

The press are also trying to minimize the racist content of the police attacks.

Apparently they agree when prosecutors assert that "the beatings were not racially motivated."

But if the Rochester brutality cases prove anything, it's that the inevitable logic of our system of "law enforcement" is racist to the core.

Boston activists call on mayor to resign in wake of police brutality

by JEFF OFFERMANN

BOSTON—More than 50 Black community activists marched to police headquarters here on August 17 to demand the resignations of Mayor Ray Flynn and his "boyhood friend" Police Commissioner Francis M. Roache.

Demonstrators chanted "Hey hey, ho ho, Flynn and Roache have got to go!" and "No justice-no peace!" to protest the spree of police shootings and brutality which have been directed at Boston's Black community this summer.

At the rally in front of police headquarters, dubbed the "Roache Motel," relatives of the victims demanded justice, and called for the removal of the "cowboys" on the force.

But justice in this city is in short supply. District Attorney Newman

Flanagan found the use of deadly force "justifiable" in the June 25 slaying of Nathaniel Lockland. Lockland was shot in the back of the head after police chased him through a housing project.

Police claim Lockland pulled a knife on them, but witnesses deny the cops' version of the events despite threats and continual harassment by the police.

The Flynn administration has been under mounting pressure to control the cops in Boston.

It set up a committee to review police management last May, but the head of the committee, James St. Clair, has said it will not release its conclusions until mid-November, after the elections for mayor and the city council.

Even St. Clair was forced to admit that Internal Affairs, the police department agency charged with inves-

tigating police misconduct, has delayed investigations of more than 170 cases against cops for up to a year.

At the rally, community activists led by Sadiki Kambon, renewed calls for a "civilian-review board" to investigate instances of police brutality.

This demand must be supported, as the police are absolutely incapable of policing themselves.

"GUARDING THE HENHOUSE"

"It's a case of the fox guarding the henhouse," said Kambon. However, several versions of such a board are in the works.

The mayor has come up with a plan which seeks to deflect criticism away from himself and onto city workers.

Flynn calls for a three-member board, without subpoena power which would be appointed by the mayor. It would be charged with investigating complaints against all city employees,

not just the cops.

This scheme must be rejected as a toothless "solution" which would leave Flynn's racist administration and its cops untouched.

City Councillor Bolling of Roxbury has also come up with an unacceptable version. His board would be appointed by the City Council (on which sit open racists like Albert "Dapper" O'Neil), and six of the 13 members would be police officers.

This is obviously not very different from the Department of Internal Affairs, which is currently responsible for investigations.

The Rev. Grayson Ellis-Hagler and Councillor Yancey of Dorchester have opted for a third plan which calls for a nine-member all-civilian review board with subpoena power to be appointed by City Council.

This plan is the most palatable, but has its limitations, primarily the pro-

vision of Council appointment.

The Council has tabled discussion of all versions until after the elections, and Councillor O'Neil has vowed that none of the versions will go forward.

While we would applaud the removal of investigations from the hands of the mayor and his police commissioner, activists should have no illusions in the effectiveness of civilian review boards to curb cop violence.

Most versions operate under the assumption that there are a few bad cops in a mostly trustworthy force.

This assumption fails to acknowledge the main role of the cops in this society, namely, to protect those in power and their property from the rest of us.

Community organizers and anti-racists should step up their calls for the resignations of Flynn and Roache by building more demonstrations like the August 17 rally.

U.S. activists join Montreal anti-racist demo

By COLIN RICKARDS

A group of Black activists from the U.S., who travelled to Montreal to take part in a Black protest march against police violence, brought militant politics to an anti-racism demonstration last weekend. The marchers carried black mock coffins through the downtown streets, in memory of three Black men killed by Montreal police since 1987.

"We can no longer sit passively by and accept these indignities," said June Mayers, Chairperson of the Black Community Council of Quebec.

About 150 people took part in the protest.

"What's happening here is no different from what's happening in New York," said one of the U.S. activists, who gave his name as Malik.

He said that he was from the Black Consciousness Movement.

The New York Group was dressed in black, with matching

caps inscribed with the name of Malcolm X.

They handed out copies of a newspaper called "Arm the Masses".

The demonstration began near the spot where 24-year-old St. Lucian-born Marcelus Francois, who was unarmed, was fatally shot by a police sergeant on July 3 in a case of mistaken identity.

"I'm telling people that we have to defend ourselves when violence is committed against us," said Malik. "Violence is one form of struggle. It's the

highest form of political struggle."

Meanwhile, Yves Prudhomme, Director of the union representing Montreal's 4,519

officers, said that the morale on the force is at rock bottom.

"Marcelus Francois was our Oka," he said.

Prudhomme said that the

police are now reluctant to become involved in situations involving visible minorities.

Prudhomme also criticised Dan Philip, the outspoken head

of the Black Coalition of Quebec.

"For the last three years he hasn't stopped publicly condemning the police," he said.

Police remark about blacks causes alarm

The Globe and Mail

MONTREAL — Two antiracism groups are calling for the suspension of a Montreal Urban Community Police officer who said in a newspaper interview that blacks should be sent "back to their islands" because they are responsible for most crime.

Stephen Scheinberg, national chairman of the League for Human Rights of B'Nai Brith Canada, said a "policeman carrying these attitudes on the street is a danger to the entire community" and should be stripped of his duties.

Constable Guy Denis, who works in Côte-des-Neiges, a part of the city with one of the highest proportions of visible and religious minorities, made his controversial statements to a Montreal Gazette reporter.

Constable Denis said one solution to the high crime rate in Côte-des-Neiges is to "send them back to their islands." The police officer was also quoted as referring to a complainant as a "patel," a derogatory French term for a person of East Indian origin.

Leith Hamilton, executive director of the Black Community Council of Quebec, said the comments were outrageous, but they are made far more disturbing by the current climate of hostility and that the officer in question has a history of violence against blacks in the community.

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